

SUPREME COURT CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL RECORDS

CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

A summary of case filings and dispositions in the Supreme Court of Illinois for the period 1999 through 2003 is presented in Table 1.

During 2003, filings in the supreme court totaled 2,967 a decrease of 10.2 percent or 343 fewer cases than the 3,310 cases filed in 2002. The supreme court disposed of a total of 3,328 cases in 2003, an increase of 8 cases from 2002 dispositions.

In 2003 there were 2,145 cases filed on the general docket, which is the predominant docket, a decrease of 329 cases, or 13.3 percent, from 2002 filings.

A total of 638 miscellaneous record cases were filed in 2003, the same number as in 2002. The miscellaneous record consists primarily of attorney matters, including name-change petitions, disciplinary cases, and bar admission motions. In 2003, approximately 413 name-change petitions and 26 motions for restoration to active status under Rule 759 were filed. Disciplinary matters account for 148 cases, and the remaining 51 cases consist of bar admission motions, rule amendment petitions, petitions concerning professional service corporations or limited liability companies under Rule 721, and certain other administrative matters.

In 2003, 184 miscellaneous docket cases were filed, a 14-case decrease from 2002. This docket consists of conviction-related cases filed by *pro se* prisoners. Typically, a matter is placed on the miscellaneous docket, as opposed to the general docket, when papers do not conform to the rules in one or more respects. This docket provides a forum for the incarcerated *pro se* litigant without compromising standard filing requirements.

Petitions for Leave to Appeal

In 2003, 1,954 petitions were filed, a decrease of 302 cases from the 2002 filings on the leave to appeal docket, as represented in Table 2. The supreme court allowed 91 petitions, a 5-case increase from 2002, or 4.3 percent of the petitions acted upon.

As in the prior 4 years, more petitions were filed in people cases than in civil cases. In 2003, 41 petitions were allowed in people cases and 50 petitions were allowed in civil cases.

Mandatory Appeals

As seen in Table 3, total capital case filings (imposition of death penalty and post-conviction) decreased by 11 cases in 2003 from 2002 filings. Four (4) direct appeals from the imposition of the death sentence were filed in 2003; no capital post-conviction appeals were filed. During the 5-year period, direct appeal filings ranged from 4 to 11

cases annually and post-conviction appeals ranged from 0 to 15 cases annually. In 2003 the Court disposed of a total of 34 capital cases.¹

The year 2003 saw 20 direct appeals from the circuit court under Rules 302(a) and 603 in cases in which a statute has been held invalid, a 57-case decrease from 2002, when approximately 66 cases were filed on notices of appeal from orders declaring unconstitutional, all or part of, Public Act 91-404 (sentencing enhancements for crimes committed with firearms).

As in the prior 4 years, no certificates of importance from the appellate court pursuant to Rule 316 were filed in 2003.

Other Activity

In 2003, the supreme court filed 96 full opinions, disposing of 113 cases; 26 fewer opinions than filed in 2002. (Table 6).

The court ruled on 31 petitions for rehearing in decided cases, none of which were allowed (Table 7); entertained oral argument in 91 cases and accepted one case for submission as a non-oral (Table 5); and considered over 2,366 motions on the general docket, including 124 original action motions under Rules 381 and 383 (Table 1).

Attorney disciplinary activity (Table 8) in 2003 was concentrated on the miscellaneous record where the court disciplined 135 attorneys by order and suspended 8 attorneys on an interim basis by order. One (1) attorney was disciplined by opinion. Four (4) petitions for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767 were considered by the court in 2003, with one (1) allowed.

In 2003, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 3, the supreme court rules committee forwarded to the clerk of the court 5 matters to be placed upon the proposed rule docket, which spreads of record rule proposals and amendments being considered by the supreme court or its committees. Eight (8) matters on the proposed rule docket were closed. In 2003, the court amended 15 Supreme Court Rules² and adopted 3 Supreme Court Rules³, including rules pertaining to the registration of law firms under Rule 721, limitation of joint and several liability for law firms under new Rule 722 where a firm maintains "minimum insurance or proof of financial responsibility," appointment of associate judges, military service of judges, admissions or stipulations in proceedings

¹ Three (3) dispositions by opinion; 31 by orders entered after Governor George H. Ryan commuted the death sentences of approximately 160 capital defendants and pardoned 4 others on January 10, 2003.

² Amended Rules 39, 63 (amended 4/1 and 12/5), 76 (amended 5/28 and 6/3), 90, 94, 298, 305, 306, 315 (amended 3/19 and 12/5), 526, 529, 556, 711, 721 (commentary revised 12/5), 769.

³ Adopted new Rules 306A (corrected 12/10; stayed until further order of Court on 12/31), 402A, 722.

to revoke probation, conditional discharge or supervision, stay of judgments pending appeal in termination of parental rights cases, expedited appeals in child custody cases, and fines, penalties and costs on written pleas of guilty in minor traffic and conservation offenses.

The supreme court, which is responsible for regulating the practice of law in the state, licensed 2,622 attorneys in 2003, an increase of 69 from the 2,553 licenses awarded in 2002. During the past 5 years, 12,967 lawyers were licensed, an average of 2,593 per year, which is an increase of 15 from the 5-year average reported in 2002.

In 2002, the court inaugurated the Capital Litigation Trial Bar Rosters consistent with Supreme Court Rule 714 and the order of January 23, 2002 (M.R. 17985). As of December 31, 2003, 637 attorneys were certified as members of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar, 507 as lead counsel and 130 as co-counsel.

Table 1
Summary of Case Filings and Final Dispositions
Supreme Court of Illinois
1999 - 2003

Filings	Grand Total	Total General Docket	Direct Appeals by Right (a)	Certificates of Importance (b)	Direct Appeal by Permission (c)	Petitions for Leave to Appeal (d)	Original Action Motions (e)	Attorney Disc. Cases on General Docket	Other General Docket (f)	Total Misc. Record (g)	Total Misc. Docket (h)
1999	3231	1948	42	0	5	1770	93	5	33	984	299
2000	3122	1938	45	0	6	1775	88	0	24	832	352
2001	3145(j)	2264(j)	205(j)	0	7	1881	134	1	36	615	266
2002	3310	2474	92(j)	0	10	2256	92	1	23	638	198
2003	2967	2145	24	0	17	1954	124	1	25	638	184
Dispo- sitions											
1999	3524(i)	2157(i)	224(i)	0	5	1741	99	3	85	1031	336
2000	3252	2027	68	0	6	1772	82	5	94	870	355
2001	2706	1848	45(j)	0	7	1559	131	0	106	610	248
2002	3320	2458(j)	173(j)	0	9	2069	98	2	107	649	213
2003	3328	2471	145	0	17	2083	121	1	104	666	191

(a) Appeals directly from the circuit court: Capital cases (Ill. Const. 1970, art. VI, § 4; Rule 603 appeals from imposition of death sentence and appeals in post-conviction proceedings under Rule 651) and statutes held invalid (Rules 302(a) and 603). (b) Certification of case by Appellate Court under Rule 316. (c) Rule 302(b) motions. (d) Dispositions do not include petitions allowed in a given year unless entire case disposed of in that same year. (e) Motions filed under Rule 381 (mandamus, prohibition, habeas corpus), Rule 382 (legislative redistricting), Rule 383 (supervisory authority). (f) Other dispositions include final disposition of cases in which discretionary review was granted in prior year(s). (g) The Miscellaneous Record consists primarily of attorney matters, including disciplinary cases, motions for restoration to active status (Rule 759), petitions to change name on roll of attorneys, and bar admission motions. Effective November 1, 1999, Rule 770 (voluntary transfer to inactive status) rescinded. (h) Cases are filed on the Miscellaneous Docket when papers tendered by pro se prisoners do not conform to Supreme Court Rules. (i) In 1999, in view of *People v. Fisher*, 184 Ill. 2d 441 (1998), upholding summary suspension of driving privileges, approximately 184 cases were dismissed. (j) The 2001-2002 figures include approximately 264 cases filed on notices of appeal from orders of the circuit court declaring unconstitutional, all or part of, Public Act 91-404 (sentencing enhancements for crimes committed with firearms). In 2002 approximately 145 of these cases were dismissed and in 2003 approximately 107 of these cases were dismissed, after the Court issued an opinion in *People v. Moss et al.*, 206 Ill. 2d 503 (2003).

Table 2
Summary of Petitions for Leave to Appeal and/or Appeal as a Matter of Right
Under Rules 315/317 - General Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
1999 - 2003

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed	(People)	(Civil)	Denied or Dismissed (a)	Total Disposed	Percent Allowed (b)
1999	1770	(1106)	(664)	92	(34)	(58)	1639	1741	5.3%
2000	1775	(1082)	(693)	92	(42)	(50)	1694	1772	5.2%
2001	1881	(1196)	(685)	98	(42)	(56)	1491	1559	6.2%
2002	2256	(1594)	(662)	86	(43)	(43)	1937	2069	4.2%
2003	1954	(1304)	(650)	91	(41)	(50)	1966	2083	4.3%

(a) Does not include petitions denied with supervisory orders. These are reflected in "total disposed".

(b) Relationship between petitions allowed and all petitions disposed, i.e., denied, dismissed, allowed.

Table 3
Mandatory Jurisdiction Appeals - General Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
1999 - 2003

	Total Filed	Capital		Statute Invalid		Certificate of Importance		Total Dis- posed	Capital		Statute Invalid		Certificate of Importance	
		Imposition of death sentence	Post- Con- viction	People	Civil	People	Civil		Imposi- tion of death sentence	Post- Conviction	People	Civil	People	Civil
1999	42	11	15	13	3	0	0	224	7	14	193	10	0	0
2000	45	9	14	6	16	0	0	68	18	30	15	5	0	0
2001	205	7	6	188	4	0	0	45	7	15	12	11	0	0
2002	92	9	6	72	5	0	0	173	6	17	145	5	0	0
2003	24	4	0	9	11	0	0	145	18	16	107	4	0	0

Table 4
General Docket
People and Civil Cases
Supreme Court of Illinois
1999 - 2003

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Disposed	(People)	(Civil)
1999	1948	1168	780	2157	1404	753
2000	1938	1134	804	2027	1222	805
2001	2264	1426	838	1848	1038	810
2002	2474	1715	759	2458	1690	768
2003	2144	1353	791	2471	1700	771

Table 5
Summary of the Call of the Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
1999 - 2003

	Cases Submitted	(People)	(Civil)
1999	118	(69)	(49)
2000	114(a)	(70)	(44)
2001	149(b)	(67)	(82)
2002	109(c)	(66)	(43)
2003	92(d)	(45)	(47)

Cases submitted on briefs without oral argument: (a)2; (b)10, including 8 legislative redistricting cases; (c)1; (d) 1.

Table 6
Summary of Opinions
Supreme Court of Illinois
1999 - 2003

	Total Filed (a)	(People)	(Civil)	Disposing of Cases on the Merits
1999	91(b)	(49)	(42)	104(b)
2000	127(c)	(84)	(43)	144(c)
2001	111	(59)	(52)	130
2002	122	(71)	(51)	131
2003	96	(53)	(43)	113

(a) Full opinions; category does not include dissenting or concurring opinions.

(b) Does not include 1 case dismissed by Per Curiam order.

(c) Does not include 1 consolidated case dismissed by order.

Table 7
Summary of Rehearings
Supreme Court of Illinois
1999 - 2003

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed (a)	(People)	(Civil)
1999	42	(23)	(19)	0	(0)	(0)
2000	51	(36)	(15)	2	(1)	(1)
2001	51	(30)	(21)	6	(2)	(4)
2002	43	(25)	(18)	1	(1)	(0)
2003	31	(21)	(10)	0	(0)	(0)

(a) Petitions not allowed are denied or, occasionally, dismissed or withdrawn on motion.

Table 8

**Attorney Disciplinary Cases
Supreme Court of Illinois
(Calendar Year 2003)**

Discipline Imposed by Order	Dispositions
Rule 753 proceedings on recommendation of Hearing or Review Boards of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission	42
Rule 762(a) Voluntary disbarment	31
Rule 762(b) Discipline on consent	46
Rule 763 Reciprocal discipline	16
Total	135

Discipline by Opinion	1
------------------------------	----------

Interim Suspension orders	
Rule 754	1
Rule 761	4
Rule 764	1
Rule 774	2
Total	8

Reinstatement to Roll of Attorneys	
Petition Allowed 1	4
Petition Denied 2	
Petition Withdrawn 1	

Total Dispositions	148
---------------------------	------------

Reinstatement Petitions	Reprimand	Censure	Interim Suspension	Probationary Suspension	Suspension	Disbarment	Total Dispositions
4	6	12	8	20	61	37	148

Figure 1

Filings

1999-2003

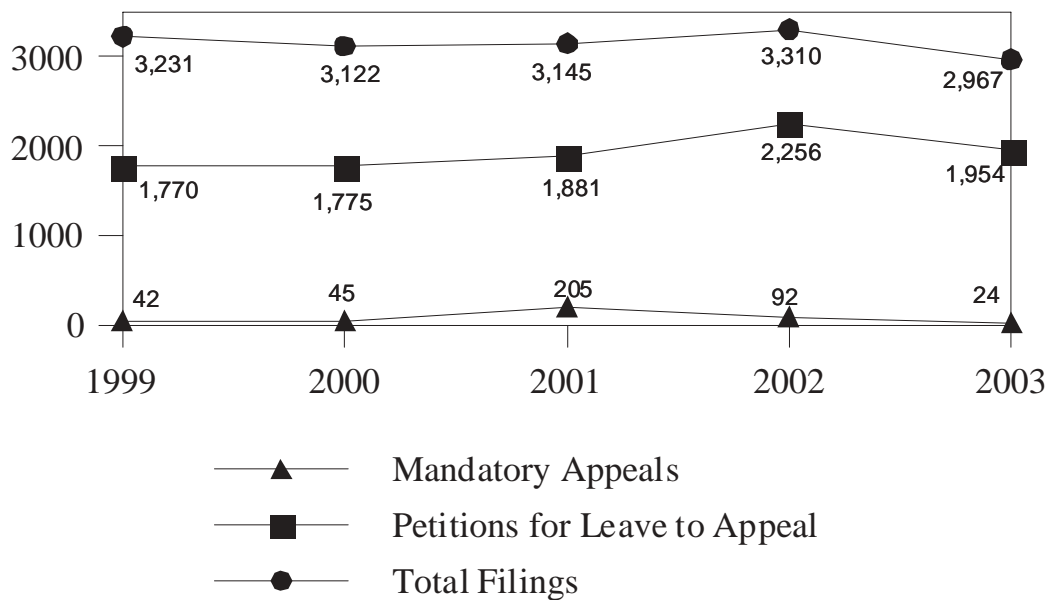
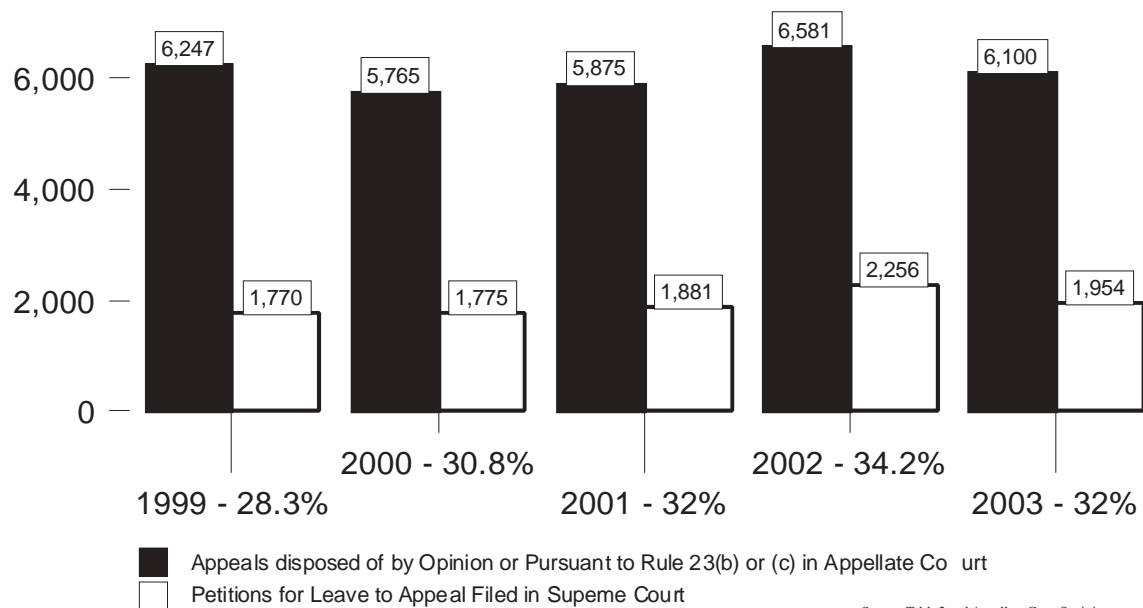


Figure 2

Petitions for Leave to Appeal Filed as a Percent of Appeals Decided by Appellate Court Opinion or Rule 23 Order

1999-2003



Source: Table 2 and Appellate Court Statistics